



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND
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SMDC-SO


MAY 23 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SMDC/ARSTRAT EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Holiday Safety Message

1. Memorial Day has always been a solemn day of national remembrance -- a fitting time to honor all those who have died, often in combat, while serving our nation in uniform. It also marks the unofficial start of the summer season with short vacation trips, the first family barbecue of the new season, or taking time to enjoy the outdoors in the warm weather.
2. Driving will undoubtedly be a part of your holiday routine. Make sure your vehicle is in proper operating condition, plan your travel route, allow extra time for increased traffic on the roads, wear your seatbelt, and require your passengers to wear theirs. Drive sensibly but defensively, and don't drive if you are fatigued or have been drinking. Over 50 percent of vehicle fatalities involve alcohol. If your celebrations will include consumption of alcoholic beverages, please do so in moderation and plan on using an alternate means for getting home safely, such as a "designated driver."
3. Drowning is another major cause of accidental death during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Be aware of water hazards associated with swimming and boating, and ensure you and your family use only those swimming areas in which qualified lifeguards and approved lifesaving equipment are provided. Boaters should always wear their protective flotation devices (life jackets) and never drink while operating their boat.
4. Additional information on safe driving, recreational, and other summer-related activities can be found in SMDC's Summer Safety Brochure. This brochure is located under Tips at: <http://commandnet.smdc.army.mil/Safety/SafetyOffice.html>.
5. Memorial Day is intended to honor those patriots who gave their lives so that we may live in freedom. It is my desire that all members of SMDC/ARSTRAT and their families have the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of this holiday and enjoy a safe Memorial Day weekend.

"SECURE THE HIGH GROUND"


LARRY J. DODGEN
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding